



# **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR WELLHEAD PROTECTION**

## **Guidance for Developing a Wellhead Protection Program Plan**

### **Michigan Department of Environmental Quality**

#### **GOAL**

The goal of this element is to actively involve people who live and conduct business in the wellhead protection area in the development and implementation of the program. Local wellhead protection programs must ensure that public participation takes place by incorporating processes for involvement in each of the program elements. The involvement of citizens, both in the development and implementation of a wellhead protection program, will improve the quality of the program and help to guarantee its success.

#### **BACKGROUND**

It is a common belief that in order for a wellhead protection program to be effective, everyone within the community and generally the neighboring jurisdiction has to do their part. To generate interest and initiate participation, communities have focused on public education, information, and participation. Listed below are a number of options to consider when beginning a wellhead protection program.

#### **PUBLIC EDUCATION/INFORMATION/PARTICIPATION OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- Village/city /township meetings
- Planning board or commission meetings
- Newsletters
- Newspaper articles
- Radio spots
- Local cable television spots
- Presentations at elementary and secondary schools
- Presentations at rotary or other local organization club meetings
- Wellhead protection brochures
- Water plant tours
- Elementary/secondary school study units which introduce wellhead protection concepts or activities
- Children's water festivals
- Waste reduction strategies targeted for wellhead protection areas
- Wellhead protection ordinances or policies
- Wellhead protection information for distribution in the monthly water bill
- Wellhead protection area signs on roads which enter the wellhead protection area
- Frequent household hazardous waste collection days for residents in the wellhead protection area

Involving the public is one of the most important elements to a successful program. Wellhead protection cannot be completed without establishing strong partnerships and cooperation throughout the community.